

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the non-final Office Action dated **September 22, 2010.** Claims 9-12 and 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The Applicants' Representative, Martha J. Engel, contacted the Examiner on October 2, 2010 and December 30, 2010. Ms. Engel appreciates the Examiner's time in answering her questions and suggestions regarding amending the claims to tie the Petri net to the cryptographic process. The comments made by the Examiner during the discussions have been considered and are incorporated into this Amendment. Ms. Engel also spoke to the Examiner on March 8, 2011, and he indicated that the amendments appear to overcome at least the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection.

With this response, claims 9-12 and 14-21 have been amended. Claims 9-12 and 14-21 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Correction of Inventorship

With this response, the inventorship has been corrected to list Wulf Harder as the sole inventor.

Specification

Amendments have been made to the specification to remove numerals in brackets scattered throughout the text that referred to a list of references at the end of the originally filed specification. That list of references was deleted from the specification in a preliminary amendment filed on October 21, 2005.

The Applicant is in Germany, and we have requested copies of the relevant portions of the documents referenced in the specification for submission in an Information Disclosure Statement.

The abstract has also been amended to remove "FIG. 1" therefrom.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 9-12 and 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to

non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action stated:

Claims 9-12 and 14-21 disclose a method of encoding Petri-net into memory associated with cryptological functions. However, Petri-net is well known workflow model and applying Petri-net to processing systems would impermissibly cover every substantial practical application of, and thereby preempt all use of Petri-net.

The claims have been amended to more specifically indicate how the Petri net is being used relative to a cryptological component, and the steps provided in the method for processing data using the Petri net and cryptological component. Therefore, the claims as presented herein do not cover every substantial practical application of, and thereby preempt all use of Petri-nets. Applicant asserts that the amendments to the claims have overcome the non-statutory subject matter rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant asserts that claims 9-12 and 14-21 are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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